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Backbone Mountain
2008 Drinking Water Quality Report

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Important Information about your Drinking Water:

Special points of interest:

- The water at Backbone Mountain was tested for over 120 different compounds
- The Backbone Mountain Drinking water met both State and Federal requirements
- Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (800-426-4791)

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2008. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service, an Agency of the State of Maryland, is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the water treatment facility and prepared this report.
Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Last year more than 800 tests for over 120 compounds were conducted on the water at Backbone Mountain. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. We're pleased to report that your drinking water met both Federal and State requirements. This report shows the water quality and explains what it means. if you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Mr. Jay Janney of Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350 or jjann@menv.com**

We want everyone to be informed about their water.

The water for Backbone Mountain comes from one well. The well is 280 feet deep. The underground source of the well water is called the Allegheny-Pottsville aquifer. After the water is pumped out of the well, we treat the water to remove several contaminants, adjust the pH and we also add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the regulated drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2008 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2008. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Backbone Mountain Forestry Camp Treated Water Quality Report 2008				
Definitions				
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.			
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.			
Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.			
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)				
ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter				
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter				
Contaminant	**Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)**	**Typical Sources of Contaminant**
Regulated at the Treatment Plant				
Gross Alpha (2003 Testing)	15 pCi/l	7 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2 ppm	0.008 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Di (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (2005 Testing)	6 ppb	0.7 ppb	0 ppb	PVC Plastics
Regulated at the Distribution System				
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80 ppb	5.24 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated at the Consumer's Tap				
Copper (2006 Testing)	1.3 ppm (action level)	90th percentile = 0.029 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.